CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Amend Claims 1-9, and enter new Claims 10-14, as indicated in the following Listing of the Claims:

1. (*currently amended*) A dividing wall column ~~divided in the~~ having a middle region which is divided into a feed section and an offtake section by a dividing wall and having ~~as~~ the following segments a) to h):

a)   an upper column region,

b)   an enrichment section of the feed section which enrichment section has a cross-sectional area A_b,

c)   a stripping section of the feed section which stripping section has a cross-sectional area A_c,

d)   an upper part of the offtake section which upper part has a cross-sectional area A_d,

e)   a lower part of the offtake section which lower part has a cross-sectional area A_e,

f)   an intermediate region of the feed section,

g)   an intermediate region of the offtake section and

h)   a lower column region,

wherein ~~where~~

the dividing wall is located vertically between the segments b) and d) and between the segments c) and e),

the segments b), d), c) and e) have separation-active internals,

~~and~~ the cross-sectional area A_b of the segment b) [)] is at least 10% smaller than the cross-sectional area A_d of segment d), and

the cross-sectional area A_c of the segment c) is at least 10% greater than the cross-sectional area A_e of segment e).

2. (*currently amended*) ~~A~~ The dividing wall column ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area A_b of the segment b) is at least 40%~~, preferably at least 60%,~~ smaller than the cross-sectional area A_d of segment d).

3. (*currently amended*) ~~A~~ The dividing wall column ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area A_c of the segment c) is at least 40%~~, preferably at least 60%,~~ greater than the cross-sectional area $\underline{A_e}$ of segment e).

4. (*currently amended*) ~~A~~ The dividing wall column ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the dividing wall is arranged obliquely between the segments f) and g) and forms an angle of from 25 to 75°~~, preferably from 55 to 65°,~~ to the horizontal.

5. (*currently amended*) ~~A~~ The dividing wall column ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ having an operating pressure P ~~is~~ in the range from 0.0005 to 10 bar, and ~~the calculated~~ having ratios of the cross-sectional areas A'_b/A'_d and A'_c/A'_e ~~are given~~ calculated by the following relationships

$$\frac{A'_b}{A'_d} = \left(\frac{m_{s,b}}{m_{s,d}}\right) \times \left(\frac{m_{i,b}}{m_{i,d}}\right)^{C}$$

$$\frac{A'_c}{A'_e} = \left(\frac{m_{s,c}}{m_{s,e}}\right) \times \left(\frac{m_{i,c}}{m_{i,e}}\right)^{C}$$

wherein A'_b, A'_d, A'_c, A'_e are the cross-sectional areas of the segments b, d, c, e provided for the calculation;

$m_{s,b}$, $m_{s,d}$, $m_{s,c}$, $m_{s,e}$ are the volume flows of gas through the segments b, d, c, e, measured in m^3/h;

$m_{i,b}$, $m_{i,d}$, $m_{i,c}$, $m_{i,e}$ are the volume flows of liquid through the segments b, d, c, e, measured in m^3/h, and

the exponent C is ~~obtained as~~ an operating-pressure-dependent variable ~~from the an empirically determined function shown in Fig. 3~~, and

the calculated ratios A'_b/A'_d and A'_c/A'_e deviate from the corresponding, actual ratios A_b/A_d and A_c/A_e by not more than 30%~~, preferably not more than 20%~~.

6. (*currently amended*) ~~A~~ The dividing wall column ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ having an operating pressure ~~is~~ of from 0.0005 to 0.02 bar, and having liquid distributors ~~in~~ which ~~the~~

provide a liquid predistribution ~~occurs by the~~ based on a bank-up principle and a ~~the~~ downstream ~~fine~~ liquid fine distribution ~~occurs by the~~ based on a capillary principle ~~are used~~.

7. (*currently amended*) ~~A~~ The dividing wall column ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the separation-active internals are an ordered packing having a cross-channel structure ~~is used as separation-active internals~~.

8. (*currently amended*) ~~A~~ The dividing wall column ~~as claimed in~~ of claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein the separation-active internals are an ordered packing having a cross-channel structure, ~~is used as separation-active internals~~ and the packing has an ~~the~~ uppermost packing layer ~~of packing~~ below the liquid distributor which is aligned so that ~~the~~ individual layers of the ordered packing are aligned parallel to the dividing wall.

9. (*currently amended*) A process for ~~isolating pure~~ purifying ethylhexyl p-methoxycinnamate which comprises distilling a feed mixture comprising from 70 to 95% of ethylhexyl p-methoxycinnamate as an intermediate-boiling fraction in the ~~by distillation using a~~ dividing wall column ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8~~ of claim 1, ~~wherein the feed mixture introduced comprises from 70 to 95%, preferably from 75 to 90%, of ethylhexyl p-methoxycinnamate as intermediate-boiling desired product~~.

10. (*new*) The dividing wall column of claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area A_b of the segment b) is at least 60% smaller than the cross-sectional area A_d of segment d).

11. (*new*) The dividing wall column of claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area A_c of the segment c) is at least 60% greater than the cross-sectional area of segment e).

12. (*new*) The dividing wall column of claim 1, wherein the dividing wall is arranged obliquely between the segments f) and g) and forms an angle of from 55 to 65° to the horizontal.

13. (*new*) The dividing wall column of claim 5, wherein the calculated ratios A'_b/A'_d and A'_c/A'_e deviate from the corresponding, actual ratios A_b/A_d and A_c/A_e by not more than 20%.

14. (*new*) The process of claim 9, wherein the feed mixture comprises from 75 to 90% of
ethylhexyl p-methoxycinnamate.